

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

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FOLLOWING REPEAT PARIS 20431 ACTION SECSTATE JULY 13.

QUOTE UNCLAS PARIS 20431

USOECD

DEPT PASS WHITE HOUSE FORHENRY OWEN

DEPT PASS LABOR FOR AVERY, HEWITT AND JENSEN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, ELAB, OECD

SUBJECT: MSAC DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED OECD CONFERENCE
ON YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT - JULY 6-8

1. ACTING UNDER INSTRUCTIONS OF THE SECRETARY OF
LABOR, WHICH WERE COORDINATED WITH STATE, USDEL
METCALF TOOK THE FOLLOWING POSITION DURING LENGTHY
DEBATE ON THE PROPOSED CONFERENCE:

A. THE PURPOSE OF THE CONFERENCE IS TO EXCHANGE
INFORMATION ON, AND ASSESS, LABOR MARKET POLICIES

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AND PROGRAMS TO IMPROVE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR
YOUNG WORKERS.

B. GOVERNMENTS OF MEMBER COUNTRIES SHOULD BE
REPRESENTED BY MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR LABOR
MARKET PROGRAMS (OR AT LEAST HAVE THAT OPTION).

C. THE CONFERENCE SHOULD NOT BE HELD AS A PURELY INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING WITHIN THE MSAC BUT SHOULD BE A SPECIAL CONFERENCE WHICH WOULD ALLOW REPRESENTATION BY LABOR AND BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS AND MEMBERS OF LEGISLATIVE BODIES.

D. TO ALLOW TIME FOR PREPARATION, THE CONFERENCE SHOULD NOT BE HELD UNTIL MARCH 1978, AND SHOULD NOT EXCEED THREE DAYS.

2. THE COMMITTEE AGREED WITH U.S. VIEWS CONCERNING PURPOSE OF THE CONFERENCE. THEY ALSO AGREED THE MEETING SHOULD BE A SPECIAL CONFERENCE, BUT A NUMBER OF DELEGATIONS OPPOSED ANY FORMULA WHICH WOULD ALLOW PARTICIPATION BY LABOR AND BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS IN THE CONFERENCE. THEY STRESSED THAT THIS WOULD SET A DANGEROUS PRECEDENT. (THE UK AND BELGIUM WERE AMONG THE DELEGATIONS STRONGLY OPPOSING THIS PROPOSAL WITH ONLY THE NORDIC COUNTRIES SUPPORTING THE U.S.). HOWEVER, THE MSAC DID AGREE THAT TUAC AND BIAC SHOULD RECEIVE ALL SECRETARIAT DOCUMENTS PREPARED FOR THE CONFERENCE AND BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON THEM. THE U.S. THEN PUSHED FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH BIAC AND TUAC THE DAY BEFORE THE MEETING AND, IN PRINCIPLE, THE MSAC ACCEPTED SOME FORM OF CONSULTATIONS, BUT DID NOT UNCLASSIFIED

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SPECIFY THE TIMING OR FORM OF THE CONSULTATIONS.

3. MANY DELEGATIONS AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO DELAY THE CONFERENCE UNTIL MARCH TO ALLOW FOR ADEQUATE PREPARATION. HOWEVER, A STRONG CASE WAS MADE FOR THE POLITICAL NECESSITY OF HOLDING THE CONFERENCE IN 1977 TO RESPOND TO THE SENSE OF URGENCY CONVEYED IN THE LONDON SUMMIT AND MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

U.S. AND ITS SUPPORTERS AND THOSE WANTING THE CONFERENCE AS EARLY AS OCTOBER; THE MSAC AGREED TO AIM FOR DECEMBER 1977. NO DELEGATION OPPOSED THE SUGGESTION THAT THE CONFERENCE (AND POSSIBLE CONSULTATIONS) SHOULD BE HELD WITHIN A THREE-DAY PERIOD.

4. THE COMMITTEE WAS OF TWO MINDS CONCERNING MINISTERIAL LEVEL REPRESENTATION. THE U.S. ARGUED THAT THE IMPORTANCE PLACED ON THE MEETING IN THE SUMMIT AND MINISTERIAL COUNCIL COMMUNIQUE PRECLUDED LOWER LEVEL "EXPERT" REPRESENTATION. ON THE OTHER HAND, UK ARGUED THAT SINCE THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS

AN EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION, IT DID NOT REQUIRE MINISTERIAL REPRESENTATION. THIS POINT ALSO MADE AN IMPACT ON SOME DELEGATIONS. IN THE END, THE LK WAS ALONE IN ARGUING AGAINST A MINISTERIAL BUT THE CHAIRMAN (IRELAND) APPEARED SYMPATHETIC TO THE UK POSITION. THE SECRETARIAT INDICATED THAT THEY WILL INFORM THE COUNCIL THE MSAC DID NOT REACH AGREEMENT ON THIS POINT. THIS WILL LEAVE THE FINAL DECISION ON LEVEL OF REPRESENTATION TO THE COUNCIL. TO PREPARE FOR CONFERENCE IT WAS AGREED THAT A SPECIAL PREPARATORY GROUP WOULD MEET OCTOBER 3 AND 4 TO DISCUSS ALL MATERS RELATED TO THE CONFERENCE.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: ALTHOUGH THIS MATTER IS NOT UNCLASSIFIED

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SCHEDULED TO COME UP AT JULY 22 COUNCIL, IF WASHINGTON AGENCIES FEEL STRONGLY THAT WE WOULD LIKE MINISTERIAL LEVEL PARTICIPATION AT THE MEETING WE SHOULD RECEIVE INSTRUCTIONS TO MAKE THIS POINT UNDER "OTHER BUSINESS" SO THAT MATTER CAN BE REPORTED TO OTHER LABOR MINISTERS IN TIME FOR THEM TO TAKE UNDER ADVISEMENT BEFORE AUGUST BREAK. SALZMAN UNQUOTE VANCE

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